



From the Principal's Desk

Our annual school picnic barbecue is only three weeks away on Friday 9 March from 5.30-7.30pm, so mark your calendars now! The evening is intended to provide a family picnic atmosphere where you can gather with other families and share a picnic meal. The idea is not just to picnic with familiar friends, but to meet families and children who are new to our school. We will have BBQ's going and will cook sausages for sale. From 6:00 -7:00pm the student councillors will organise and run games for the students concluding around 7.30pm. See you there.

During the Week 4 of Term 2 we will be participating in an exchange with our Melbourne sister school. I will be taking two of our staff and six Year 6 students to visit Coburn School. We have invited the Year 6 students to apply to be part of the group and we will be selecting six of these students. Coburn School is in the suburb of Melton. Mrs Knight is the principal at Coburn and has been a staunch advocate of the value of this exchange. She has been sending teachers and students since 2007.

The first meeting of the board is Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm in the Board Room. Although these are public meetings regulations state parents may only attend as an audience and not participate in the proceedings. Minutes of all meetings are on the school web site www.wakaaranga.school.nz.

This year's Meet the Teacher programme is now complete and I would like to thank the many parents who turned out to meet their child's teacher. This event is an extremely important one and for many parents it is the first opportunity to meet the teacher of their child. It is vital for your child's learning that you get to know the teacher well and establish a rapport. Your child's learning is a true partnership between home and school, so understanding what is happening in your child's class and how things will operate are essential elements necessary to contribute to success.



Year 5 explore the outdoors

Year 5 took part in a very exciting Outdoor Education Programme. We spent one day at Maraetai Beach doing kayaking, outdoor cooking, BMX circuit, raft making, beach games, novelty and co-operative games. The other day was at Murphy's Bush doing a bush walk, safety in the bush, shelter building, bush survival, Burma trail, clue find, compass reading and co-operative games.

The students learn to use safe practices and basic risk management strategies and identify personal strengths that contribute to a sense of self-worth.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the learning experiences in this unit. We had a wonderful group of parent helpers who make this a very positive experience.



Mathew really likes art at his new school

Mathew is a new student at Wakaaranga School. He is in Mrs Moth's class and last week they went to art with Mrs Murray.

The class looked at pictures of lizards and Mathew drew a very good one in pencil. He then used chalk to outline it and followed this up with crayon. Once all that was done he used black dye to colour the unused areas black.

Along with pictures from the other students in Mathew's class the art work will be on display in the school's corridors.

Year 3 visit the zoo



All the Year 3 children spent a fun filled and interesting day at the zoo on Thursday, learning about animals and their natural habitats. Rolling out snake skins, examining gigantic teeth of elephants and Rhinos and patting a real lizard were amongst the highlights. Children returned hot and tired but enriched with knowledge about how camouflage can help with survival rates.

Quiz: A meercat wears sunglasses. True or false?

TRUE! The black rings around the meercats eyes help protect its eyes from the sun and glare.

The refurbished dental clinic receives a blessing

On Thursday 16 February, the Counties Manukau Health Board officially opened and blessed the Wakaaranga Children's Community Dental Clinic.

As part of the ceremony, a tree was planted near the clinic. The clinic now has three dental chairs and a staff of seven. Parents attending the clinic with their children no longer have to park outside the school, as there are four car park spaces just for them. The dental clinic will cater for all students from Wakaaranga, Sunnyhills, St Marks, BBI, BBP, FCI and Pigeon Mountain Primary School.



Meet the Teacher Evenings

The last of the Meet the Teacher evenings was held on Thursday. All the syndicates have now held their meetings. They all went very well except for Year 3 who had the fire alarm go off half way through their evening.

Parents were given a good idea about what was going to be happening during the year and they got a chance to have a brief chat with their child's teacher.

The first parent discussions will be held on Monday 19 March and Wednesday 21

March. Keep a lookout for when we open the bookings on the school interview website.



Second hand uniform sale

If you have items for sale, please send them to the school office with your name, phone number, and the price you would like for the item.

The sale will be at the end of February.



TEAMS ARE FILLING FAST - REGISTER NOW FOR 2012
ALL YOUTH & JUNIOR TRIALS 5-11 MARCH
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For more information visit: www.bbafc.org.nz

COMMUNITY NOTICES - *The school cannot take responsibility for the accuracy of community notices published in good faith or the integrity any advertisement placed privately by members of the public*

Stardome & Bubbledome Afterschool Extension Programmes

Bubbledome is running an Ultra Science & Space Technology Course at the Stardome Planetarium and Observatory!
Bubbledome will also be offering extension workshops at several venues in Auckland starting week three term one 2012. These are 8 week programs open for all students aged 6-12 years interested in Computers, Art, Science, Space Inventions and Design. Spaces are strictly limited.

For questions Tel: 09 622 0672 or email: Info@bubbledome.co.nz or visit: www.bubbledome.co.nz

Pakuranga United Rugby Club

Junior rugby registrations on now!

Grades: Nursery (Under 5-6s), Junior (Under 7-10s) and Intermediate (11-13s)
Register online at www.purc.org.nz
Registration Days: 17, 18 and 19 February, 24, 25 and 26 February Fridays: 3-7pm, Saturday/Sundays: 1-4pm and Weekdays: 3-5pm
78 Bells Road, Lloyd Elsmore Park.
Phone: 09 576 7928

Second Hand Uniform Sale

The PTA is going to hold a second hand uniform sale at the end of February.
If you have any uniforms in the new style for sale, please contact Jacqui on 0212669474

Owairoa Netball

New players, you can download the registration form and newsletter from our website www.sportsground.co.nz/owairoanetball. It will give you information on how to register. You can also email an enquiry to owairoanetball@gmail.com or contact me, Karin McDonald, on 021 1630849

Term One Calendar

Week 4 20-24 February

Tuesday 21 Visit by Norwegian teachers, BOT 7:30

Week 5 27 February - 2 March

Monday 27 Y4 trip to Lloyd Elsmore Park
Tuesday 28 Y2 Zoo trip
Friday 5 Y5 Assembly